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Claims

We claim:

In a digital television system comprising a plurality of receivers coupled to a program source, a method for providing subscriber conferencing with program delivery comprising the steps of:

coupling a program source to a plurality of digital television (DTV) receivers; delivering a program from the program source to the DTV receivers coupled thereto; and

enabling a conference between the coupled DTV receivers during program delivery.

- 2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of: sending a billing message to one or more of the coupled DTV receivers according to program viewing or conferencing activity.
- 3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of: providing to one or more coupled DTV receiver a personalized commercial message.
 - 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein:

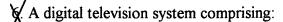
each coupled DTV receiver comprises a video camera, such that the conference comprises a multi-way video conference between coupled DTV receivers.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
adding or removing a DTV receiver coupled to the program source during program delivery.

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a program source; and

a plurality of digital television (DTV) receivers coupled to the program source; wherein a program is deliverable from the program source to the DTV receivers,

- 5 and a conference is enabled between the coupled DTV receivers
 - 7. The system of Claim 6 wherein:

each DTV receiver comprises a video camera, such that the conference comprises a video conference between coupled DTV receivers.

Digital television apparatus comprising: a display, a camera, and an interface;

wherein the interface couples to a program source for presentation of a program by the display, the interface receiving a conference signal from a conference participant for presentation of a video conference by the display, and the camera generating a video signal for transmission to the conference participant.

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